

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 7, 11-14, 21-30 and 33-35 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, a requirement was made under 35 U.S.C. §121 to elect a single invention. The Examiner has identified the following groups:

Group I, claims 1, 6, 7, 11-14, 22, 24-30 and 33-35, drawn to a fastening device; and

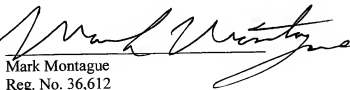
Group II, claims 21 and 23, drawn to a method of fastening two components.

In response to this requirement, the applicants hereby elect, without traverse, claims 1, 6, 7, 11-14, 22, 24-30 and 33-35 of Group I to be examined on their merits. Claims 21 and 23 are hereby withdrawn.

It is noted that, upon the allowance of the product claims, the applicants may desire to have the withdrawn process claims rejoined by amending such withdrawn claims to include all the limitations of an allowable product claim. Hence, upon the allowance of all of the product claims, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney of record to assess whether rejoinder is possible and, if so, whether a supplemental response can be submitted in the form of an amendment so that the allowance of the entire application can be made in a time efficient manner.

An early and favorable examination of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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